

**"The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil." (Job 1:8). When the difficult times came, Job was ready to trust in the Lord. He did not understand why he was suffering as he was, but He knew that God is worthy to be praised, even in the midst of the most trying times.**

**"Ingratitude Is A Sin"**



**"Everything Comes From You"  
(King David)**

Today, too, ingratitude and thanklessness are far too common. Children forget to thank their parents for all that they do. Common courtesy is scorned. We take for granted the ways that others help us. Above all, we fail to thank God for His blessings. Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible's indictments against rebellious humanity is that "Although they knew God, they

neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him" (Romans 1:21). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything. We seem never to be satisfied with what we have—rich or poor, healthy or sick. But what a difference it makes when we realize that everything we have has been given to us by God! King David prayed, "Wealth and honor come from you ... We give you thanks, and praise your glorious name ... Everything comes from you" (1 Chronicles 29:12-14). From one end of the Bible to the other, we are commanded to be thankful. In fact, thankfulness is the natural outflowing of a heart that is attuned to God.

**"Every Day Is A Thanks Giving Day!"**

When we come to Christ, it is not the end but the beginning of a whole new life! He is with us, and He wants to help us follow Him and His Word. In ourselves we do not have the strength that we need to live the way God wants us to live. But when we turn to Him, we discover that **"It is God Who works in us to will and to act according to His good purpose"** (Philippians 2:13). Jesus promised His disciples, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Surely I Am with you always, to the very end of the age"** (Matthew 28:18, 20). Giving thanks to God is important because He is utterly deserving of it. Giving thanks to God benefits us as well, in bringing joy and peace to our hearts. In many countries a special day is set aside each year for thanksgiving. But for the Christian every day can be a day of thanksgiving!



Are we thankful no matter what? Some of us have lost a great deal through the devastation of Hurricane Florence, Hurricane Michael and now the fires that are taking place in California. Some of us may have lost our health, or a loved one. Such circumstances can be tremendously difficult. But even so, we all have much to be thankful for. Look with me at the story of a man who had every right to be bitter—but wasn't.

The next footsteps in the corridor, he knew, might be those of the guards taking him away to his execution. His only bed was the hard, cold stone floor of the damp, cramped prison cell. Not an hour passed when he was free from the constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs. Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated—if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving! The man was the Apostle Paul—a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20). Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances! Thanksgiving for the Apostle Paul was not a once-a-year celebration, but a daily reality that changed his life and made him a joyful person in every situation.

**"The Giving Of Thanks"**

**"Giving Thanks Unlocks The Doors Of Heaven And Helps Us Feel God's Love"**



Thanksgiving— **"The Giving Of Thanks"**—to God for all His blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. We must not allow a spirit of ingratitude to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with others. Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

"Jesus, Master, Have Pity On Us!"



In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: To be healed. In the ancient world, leprosy was a terrible disease. It hopelessly disfigured those who had

it, and it permanently cut them off from normal society. Without exception, every leper yearned for one thing: To be healed. In Luke 17 ten men who were part of a leper colony approached Him together, but they remained at a distance, as per the law. They called out to Him, "**Jesus, Master, have pity on us!**" Without seeming to do anything to heal them, Jesus merely gave the instruction to go show themselves to the priest. At the moment of Jesus' instruction, the men were still lepers. No physical change had yet taken place. But, in faith, the men obeyed, As they began to walk to the priest, they were healed. Jesus always required faith on the part of the person who asked for healing. Many times He asked those who wanted to be healed, "**Do you believe that I can do this?**" (Matthew 9:28; Mark 9:20-24). He required a demonstration of faith on the part of the lepers in asking them to walk away, even before He had healed them. The Bible does not record how far they had walked before being healed. However, only one man returned to thank Jesus for the healing.

"The Thankful Samaritan"



Luke makes special mention of the fact that the one who returned was a Samaritan, a person despised by the Jews (Luke 17:15). Jesus expressed disappointment that the other nine had not thought to give praise to God for their healing. From this we learn that God desires for us to express our thankfulness to Him for all He does in our lives. Even though Jesus did not withhold healing from the nine who did not thank Him, He made a point of noting their lack of gratefulness (Luke 17:18). Because they

had faith, all ten were physically healed. But Jesus' final words to the grateful Samaritan imply that this man received spiritual healing in addition to the cleansing of his skin. After the man was already healed of leprosy Jesus said to

him, "**Rise and go; your faith has made you well**" (verse 19). It could be that the man's return to fall at Jesus' feet gave him spiritual wholeness in addition to the physical wholeness he had received. When we take time to acknowledge the Giver and not just the gifts, we please the Lord as well as enjoy the spiritual healing that comes from gratefulness.

"Spiritual Amnesia"



"Never Forget All That God Has Done For Us"

When the world seems to be closing in on us, or when we feel like we have our backs up against the wall, giving thanks may be the last thing we would ever think of doing. We may reason, If I am in difficult circumstances, then I have no responsibility or need to be thankful. After all, we are to be thankful for ,

blessings, not difficult circumstances. This reasoning is not correct, however, because all of God's children need to be thankful. To be thankful in the midst of difficult times is very hard, yet Paul said, "**In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). How is this possible? Sometimes when we think the situation cannot get any worse, it does! But we must remember that when we belong to and serve God, no situation is hopeless. God's children can count on His providential care, and His never ending love. In the midst of our difficulties, we sometimes have a sort of spiritual amnesia. We forget all that God has done for us, and the difficulties He has helped us through.

"Consider Job"



The difficulties most of us have faced pale into insignificance compared to the pain and suffering Job faced. His response to the loss of all of his possessions, and all ten of his children was to worship God.

**"Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."** (Job 1:20-21) Job was able to do this because he was a man totally devoted to God. God described him as being a perfect and an upright man, one that feared God, and abstained from evil.